



Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District Nature & Trails Advisory Committee Minutes

Date: October 18, 2023

Time: 7:24 pm

Location: Online Zoom

In Attendance

Committee Members: Heather AbuSneineh, Margaret Hite, Shirley Hoffmann (secretary), Vidyanand Kulkarni, Erik Lehr (chair), Carl Nelson, Tina Ricks

Absent: Carla Fennel, Brittany Leffel

Board Liaison: Barbie Minor

Staff: Bruce Barbarasch, Nature & Trails Manager, Scott Wagner, Nature & Trails Specialist

Guests: None

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:24 pm. The first part of the meeting included the Parks & Facilities Advisory Committee (PFAC).

Leilani Garcia, THPRD Grants Administrator, requested a letter of approval from both the NTAC and PFAC for a grant application to the Land and Water Conservation Fund for \$600,000. The funds would be used to replace a weir and pedestrian bridge at Commonwealth Park, to include new asphalt and adding one ADA parking space. Both Committees approved the grant request and will sign a letter of approval to be included with the grant proposal.

II. Approval of Minutes

After the NTAC moved to their own meeting, Vidyanand Kulkarni moved to approve the NTAC September 2023 meeting minutes with Carl Nelson seconding. Minutes were approved without changes.

IV. Old Business

None

V. New Business

Scott Wagner, Nature & Trails Specialist, explained the "Enhanced Pollinator Habitat in Trail Corridors" program which began in 2008. THPRD has been working with Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and Portland General Electric (PGE) to improve habitat along power line trails. Some land is owned by THPRD with an easement to the utility and other land is owned by the utility but with an easement to THPRD, adding to the complexity of the project. He discussed the Murrayhill Restoration (Weir Rd. to Teal St.) which began with invasive weed clearing many years ago and planting thousands of native plants. This corridor is doing well and THPRD is seeing more pollinators in the area. THPRD is now collecting seed to use in further native planting. Inter-agency coordination and public perception of the program, especially in the beginning before natives are well established, have been challenges. Key utility concerns are fire suppression and viable alternatives to mowing. THPRD is part of a pollinator working group that includes both utilities.

VI. Other

The NTAC decided to postpone selection of a trail gap for improved signage for the THPRD advisory committee grant program at November's NTAC meeting. The committee initially discussed the details of a list of trail gaps in September. A Survey Monkey will be sent to committee members to prioritize the list of trail gaps to help narrow down the best options for final discussion at the November meeting. Once a trail gap is selected, the committee will work with Bruce to determine the budget for the grant proposal.

VII. Next Meeting will be held on November 15, 6:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Hoffmann

Recording Secretary